

**Cathy Noh**

**From:** Cathy Noh [cathy.noh@saylorcompany.com]  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 16, 2010 10:30 AM  
**Subject:** South Ossetian Statement Commemorating 20 years of Independence – Embargoed for media use until Monday, 20 September

Please consider the following statement by Eduard Kokoity, President of South Ossetia. The statement commemorates South Ossetia's 20th anniversary of Independence, which is being celebrated on 20 September 2010.

If you need further information about South Ossetia or wish to interview a South Ossetian official, please let me know at +1.202.7151448 or at [steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com](mailto:steven.ellis@saylorcompany.com).

Thanks and best regards,

Steve

**BEGIN STATEMENT:**

Today, South Ossetia commemorates 20 years of independence – 20 years of identity building.

Identity is the cornerstone of nationhood. It generates a universal empathy as strong as any human emotion. The peoples of every nation want and deserve their own identity. The citizens of South Ossetia have sacrificed much to earn our independence—and thus, our identity—as have citizens of most other countries. Many around the world continue to fight for their identity as do we.

On this very special day, South Ossetian citizens appeal to all who seek the self-esteem enabled by a strong national identity to support our quest to live our culture and beliefs, free from others, who, by the way, want and deserve their own identity. We ask those who have built great nations and civilizations on the foundation of a vibrant identity to afford South Ossetia the opportunity to do the same. When we succeed, please respect our achievements as we respect yours.

South Ossetia means no nation harm. We look to the day that all people of our region will prosper and grow without fear of war and oppression. We implore all who have the authority to make that happen to consider how important identity is to them as individuals and to realize they are not alone in needing its empowerment.

Happy Birthday, South Ossetia!

Eduard Kokoity  
President,  
Republic of South Ossetia  
20 September 2010

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END

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2010 SEP 16 PM 3:45

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